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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

# PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

This will serve as notice that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) is soliciting comments from the public regarding the pending closure of an environmental case at a gas station and mini mart deli facility, Alturas, California (Site).

**SUBJECT SITE:**

Modoc Mini Mart #1, 402 North Main Street, Alturas, Modoc County

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:**

11 February 2021 through 12 April 2021

**SUMMARY:**

The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates an environmental case at the subject property regarding an unauthorized release of unknown quantities of gasoline, diesel, and motor oil. The Site has been developed as a gas station and automotive repair shop since approximately 1929. Sometime in 1968 the current building was constructed and the repair shop was closed. Records maintained for the underground storage tanks (USTs) extend back to 1982. The history of UST and fuel distributing infrastructure is as follows:

- 1982: a waste oil tank believed to have been on the southeast corner of the current building was taken out of service and sometime later a floor drain leading to a storm drain was filled with concrete
- 1989: two gasoline USTs of unknown size were removed from a location south of the current building
- 1991: two USTs (one 12,000-gallon gasoline tank, one split 4,000-8,000-gallon gasoline and diesel tank, respectively) were installed southeast of the current building
- 2004: fuel island and piping leading from the USTs to the fuel islands were replaced with upgrades

Petroleum hydrocarbon contamination was discovered in the soil and groundwater at the Site during the 2004 fuel island and piping upgrades. The Central Valley Water

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KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board became the lead agency and opened an Underground Storage Tank case in 2004. After reviewing the file, Staff requested a site investigation work plan to delineate the vertical and lateral extent of petroleum related contaminants in soil and groundwater. In February 2006, 15 soil samples and 5 grab groundwater samples were collected during the installation of five monitoring wells. Regular sampling of the monitoring wells was conducted between 2006 and 2009.

In May 2013, two additional monitoring wells were installed. One well was installed deeper than the existing monitoring wells to assess the vertical extent of contamination. The other well was installed down gradient and off-site to assess the lateral extent of contamination. Through the installation of the two additional wells it was determined that the greatest on-site constituent impacts were located in shallow soils to an approximate depth of 10 feet below ground surface (bgs).

In June 2017, a request for closure was submitted to Central Valley Water Board staff. Staff denied the closure request, stating that the source and extent of contamination observed at monitoring wells MW-3 and MW-3B was not adequately defined. Staff also noted an increasing trend in total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-g) concentrations in monitoring well MW-3. In response, three on-site soil borings and two off-site soil borings were advanced in December 2019 to further define the extent and source of contamination. Soil samples were collected from all five soil borings and grab groundwater samples were collected from the two soil borings advanced off-site. During 2020, four quarters of groundwater sampling were performed at the Site's seven monitoring wells.

Staff reviewed the case for closure. The Site is on a public water supply and the nearest water supply wells are approximately 1,400 and 1,900 feet to the west of the Site. Soil impacts are limited in extent and do not exceed the California State Water Resources Control Board Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Closure Policy<sup>1</sup> (Low-Threat Closure Policy) criteria. Groundwater impacts are limited in extent, concentrations are stable and less than Low-Threat Closure Policy criteria, and do not threaten surface water or water supply wells.

#### **WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

General information regarding the Site can be obtained from the [State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0604979849).  
([https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=T0604979849](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0604979849))

All interested agencies, groups and persons wishing to comment on the pending case closure must provide these comments in writing. The comments should be submitted by **12 April 2021** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002. For information, please call Kate Sjoberg at (530) 224-3218 or contact her by e-mail at [Kate.Sjoberg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Kate.Sjoberg@waterboards.ca.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> [Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf):  
([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012\\_0016atta.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2012/rs2012_0016atta.pdf))